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Agenda item 6 (a) (i)

DECISIONS TO PROMOTE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

COMMUNICATIONS BY PARTIES

COMMUNICATIONS FROM ANNEX I PARTIES: GUIDELINES, SCHEDULE AND PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION

Recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

At their third session, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation decided to recommend the following draft decision for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its second session.

Communications from Parties included in Annex I: guidelines, schedule and process for consideration

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular Articles 4, 5, 6, 7.2, 9.2(b), 10.2, 11 and 12,

Recalling decisions 2/CP.1, 3/CP.1 and 4/CP.1 of the first session of the Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the relevant recommendations of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice,

Having considered the relevant recommendations of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation,

Recognizing that anthropogenic emissions and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases should be reported in a complete, transparent and comparable way that avoids double-counting or incomplete counting,

1. *Requests* the SBSTA to consider, at its fourth session, any other possible additional revisions to the guidelines arising from, *inter alia*, any modifications to the IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories;

2. *Requests* the SBSTA to consider methodological issues relevant to national communications and, in particular, at its fourth session, to address those issues discussed in FCCC/SBSTA/1996/9/Add.1 and Add.2; and, if relevant conclusions on such issues can be drawn, to revise further the guidelines for the preparation of national communications as appropriate;

3. *Decides* that Annex I Parties should use the revised guidelines contained in the annex* to this decision for the preparation of their second communications, taking into account decisions of the SBSTA at its fourth session and, unless modified or replaced, for subsequent communications;

4. *Requests* Annex I Parties to submit to the secretariat, in accordance with Articles 12.1 and 12.2 of the Convention:

(a) A second national communication[1] by 15 April 1997. For those Parties which were due to submit the first communication in 1996 an update of this communication is to be submitted by the same date; second national communications by Parties with economies in transition should in principle be submitted not later than 15 April 1998;

(b) National inventory data on emissions by sources and removals by sinks on an annual basis, by 15 April of each year, following the principles contained in decision 3/CP.1;

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* The annex to this decision is contained in document FCCC/CP/1996/L.13/Add.1.

[1] This term includes communications from the regional economic integration organization included in Annex I to the Convention.

5. *Decides* that the four Parties that have invoked Article 4.6, requesting in their first communications for flexibility to use base years other than 1990, be allowed this degree of flexibility in their first communications, as follows:

- Bulgaria; to use 1989 as a base year
- Hungary; to use the average of the years 1985 to 1987 as a base year
- Poland; to use 1988 as a base year
- Romania; to use 1989 as a base year;

6. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to consider any additional requests on the basis of Article 4.6 and to take decisions as appropriate on its behalf and to report to the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Requests* that the Annex I Parties with economies in transition invoking Article 4.6 in the implementation of their commitments should do so by explicitly indicating the nature of this flexibility (e.g., choice of a base year other than 1990, use of the revised guidelines for the preparation of national communications, schedule of submission of national inventory data other than indicated in paragraph 1 (b) above, etc., and should state clearly the special consideration they are seeking and provide an adequate explanation of their circumstances);

8. *Decides* that the review process be continued in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

9. *Requests* the secretariat to apply the procedures for the review, including in-depth reviews, as defined in decision 2/CP.1, to second national communications from Annex I Parties; the in-depth reviews are to be completed before the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties;

10. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare the documentation on the results of the review of second national communications, including compilation and synthesis and/or other reports, according to schedules to be adopted by the subsidiary bodies. A first compilation and synthesis of second national communications from Annex I Parties should be available for consideration by the third session of the Conference of the Parties;

11. *Urges* those Annex I Parties that have not yet submitted their national inventory data on emissions by sources and removals by sinks as requested by decision 3/CP.1 to do so as soon as possible;

12. *Concludes*, with respect to the reporting of national communications by Annex I Parties, that:

(a) Annex I Parties are fulfilling their Article 4.2 (b) commitments to report in detail on national policies and measures on the mitigation of climate change;

(b) Annex I Parties are fulfilling their Article 12.3 commitments by reporting on their commitments regarding the transfer of technology and the provision of financial resources;

13. *Concludes*, with respect to the implementation of the Convention by Annex I Parties, that:

(a) Annex I Parties are fulfilling their Article 4.2 commitments to implement national policies and take corresponding measures on the mitigation of climate change, but according to available information, for many Annex I Parties urgent further actions will be needed to return greenhouse gas emissions to their 1990 levels by 2000;

(b) The challenges which Annex I Parties currently face in meeting the aim to return greenhouse gas emissions to their 1990 levels by 2000, and the efforts being made to address these challenges, will be relevant for the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate on commitments for the post-2000 period;

(c) There is a need to address the concern expressed by some Parties that Annex II Parties are falling short of their commitments related to the transfer of technology and the provision of financial resources, keeping in mind that other Parties noted that some Annex II Parties are providing bilateral contributions and that all Annex II Parties contribute to the Global Environment Facility, and noting that these Parties are requested to enhance the reporting on these commitments through applying the revised guidelines contained in the annex to this decision.

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